

CASA LOMA BUILDING

398 SOUTH MILL AVENUE

Originally built in 1899 on the 0.31 acre site of the former Tempe Hotel, this 22,917 square-foot building contains a mix of commercial and office uses. Known from the outset as The Atwood (after its first leassor/manager, C.E. Atwood), its name was changed to Hotel Casa Loma in 1901, after Mr. Atwood was convicted on bogus check charges.

The Casa Loma hosted, among others, President William McKinley and Buffalo Bill Cody, and was the early-day focal point of Tempe's business district. Originally designed in a Victorian style similar to the Laird & Dines Building, the exterior underwent a 1920's renovation to the then-popular Spanish Colonial Revival style. The 1984 rehabilitation restored the building's exterior to its 1927 appearance and reversed the effects of the 1960 ADOT road widening, when part of the facade was removed and metal screens installed over window openings. It features the original three-story, classically detailed staircase and a restored cupola.

The property has been determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and received a Tempe Beautification Award of Merit in 1985.

public role: Privately-funded redevelopment.; City-provided parking

developer: original: Tempe Land & Improvement Co. with George Gage & W.J. Kingsbury; rehab: Casa Loma Associates

architect: original: A.W. Gregg
rehab: Steppe & Wilson, Tempe

builder: 1927 renovation: D.H. Nicholas
rehab: Patton Construction, Tempe

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